



CIVIL TOWN OF SPEEDWAY

1450 NORTH LYNHURST DRIVE
SPEEDWAY, INDIANA 46224-6499

TOWN COUNCIL

DAVID LINDSEY, President
EILEEN FISHER, Vice President
GARY L. RAIKES
JEFF MATTHEWS
WILLIAM SUFFEL

TELEPHONE: 317/ 246-4111

FAX: 317/ 240-1322

TOWN CLERK TREASURER

MONTY W. COMBS

TOWN MANAGER

IAN G. NICOLINI

The following statement by the Town of Speedway is in response to the issuance today of a State Board of Accounts Audit Report related to actions by former Speedway Fire Chief Mark Watson:

On October 17, 2014, town officials discovered a series of purchases made by former Fire Chief Mark Watson that raised concerns. The Indiana State Board of Accounts was notified and an audit was requested.

On October 27th, upon Watson's return from vacation, Speedway officials presented documentation to Mr. Watson regarding the unusual purchases. Watson revealed that several of the items he had purchased using town funds were in his personal possession.

Watson was immediately informed that merit proceedings would be initiated to end his employment as a member of the Speedway Fire Department. Mr. Watson requested to be allowed to resign immediately, which the town obliged in order to remove his access to town facilities, records and equipment.

Shortly thereafter, the State Board of Accounts initiated an audit of Watson's purchases, which are summarized in the report that was released today. The town complied fully with the investigation and dedicated considerable time and resources into assisting with the investigation.

While we are shocked and dismayed by the totality of Mark Watson's alleged actions, it is reassuring to know that internal financial oversight led to the exposure of these alleged actions, and immediate action was taken to prevent any further misuse of Town funds. These allegations are in no way a reflection on the men and women of the Speedway Fire Department or the employees of the Town of Speedway. The town appreciates the efforts of our staff, clerk treasurer and the State Board of Accounts in developing this report and issuing its findings.

We will continue to work with the state to ensure justice for our taxpayers and stakeholders. Since this matter is the subject of an ongoing investigation, the Town of Speedway will not comment further on the specific items contained in the report at this time.

A joint statement from Ian Nicolini, Speedway Town Manager and Monty W. Combs, Speedway Town Clerk-Treasurer